

IV. REMARKS

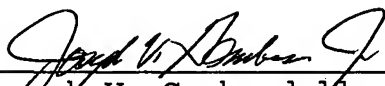
1. Claims 1-13 remain in the application.
2. The specification has been amended to add headings in compliance with US practice.
3. The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended to comply with MPEP 608.01(b).
4. Claims 1-11 and 13 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies, awkward language, and the phrases "characterised in that" and "the step of."

The amendments to the claims are not limiting, are not made for reasons related to patentability, and do not raise issues of estoppel.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims present in the application are clearly novel and patentable, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable consideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph V. Gamberdell, Jr.
Reg. No. 44,695

10 April 2004

Date

Perman & Green, LLP
425 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
(203) 259-1800
Customer No.: 2512